

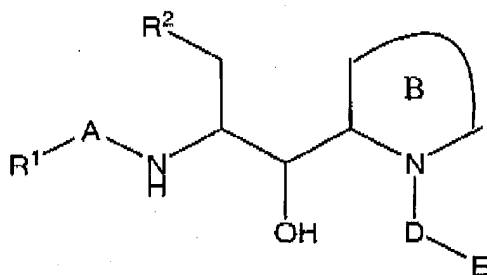
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Amendments to the claims:

Claims 1-25 (Cancelled)

26. (Previously Added) A compound of the formula:

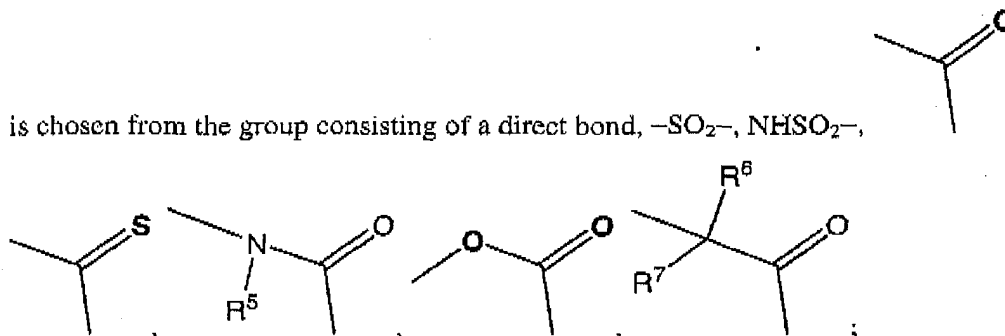


wherein:

$R^1$  is chosen from the group consisting of  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, substituted alkylaryl,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  oxaalkyl, aryloxy, substituted aryl, substituted aryloxy, heterocyclyl and heterocyclyloxy;

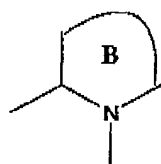
$R^2$  is chosen from the group consisting of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  hydrocarbon, substituted aryl and heterocyclyl;

A is chosen from the group consisting of a direct bond,  $-SO_2-$ ,  $NHSO_2-$ ,



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is thiazolidine;

$R^5$ ,  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  are chosen from the group consisting of hydrogen and lower alkyl;

D is chosen from the group consisting of  $-SO_2-$ ; and

E is chosen from the group consisting of  $C_1-C_{10}$  hydrocarbon, substituted aryl, heterocyclyl and substituted heterocyclyl.

27. (Previously Added) A compound according to claim 26 wherein E is chosen from aryl, heteroaryl, substituted aryl and substituted heteroaryl.
28. (Cancelled) A method of treating or preventing a protease precipitated disease which comprises administering to a mammal suffering from said disease or at risk to said disease a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 26.
29. (Cancelled) A method according to claim 28 wherein said disease is HIV, AIDS, or a related condition.
30. (Cancelled) A method according to claim 28 wherein said disease is malaria.
31. (Cancelled) A method according to claim 28 wherein said disease is chosen from connective tissue disease, muscular dystrophy, breast cancer and Alzheimer's disease.
32. (Previously Added) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a compound according to claim 26, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.
33. (Previously Added) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 32 comprising at least one additional antiviral agent.